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PHOTO NEWS RELEASE:

Bravo Battery is home

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The 180 Soldiers of Bravo Battery arrived home safely today at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls after spending 10 months overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Governor M. Michael Rounds, Senator John Thune, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Dr. Hamid Al-Bayati, and South Dakota National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen were among many civilian and military leaders that honored the Soldiers and their families during a welcome home ceremony that followed the unit's arrival at the Elmen Center located on the Augustana College Campus.

Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and conducted various security missions for the past 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Deployment Statistics

- Traveled more than 73,000 miles conducting more than 490 various security missions without a single U.S. vehicular accident or casualty.
- Conducted 130 convoy escort missions totaling 325,000 miles without a single U.S. vehicular accident or casualty.
- Conducted 87 base defense missions, 185 personal security detachment missions, 75 route security missions, and 15 contractor recovery missions.
- Ten Soldiers became fathers while in Iraq.

- Received 21 Bronze Star Medals, one Meritorious Service Medal, 81 Army Commendation Medals, 81 Army Achievement Medals, and 22 Army Combat Action Badges.
- Twenty-seven of the 180 members completed their second overseas deployment and one completed his third.
- The unit had 41 promotions during the one-year deployment.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, (605) 431-8753, e-mail orson.ward@us.army.mil, or Maj. Aaron Schultz at (605) 357-2915, cell (605) 212-6357.

Photo Cut Lines:



081023-A-8551W-0553: SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Eli Donovan gets a ride from his dad, Sgt. 1st Class Tony Donovan, during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College. Donovan, of Chamberlain, S.D., is one of the 180 Soldiers of Bravo Battery who arrived home earlier that day after spending 10 months overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Battery B is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and conducted various security missions for the past 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081023-A-8551W-0553.JPG>



081023-A-8551W-0551: SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Adilynn Bell is held by her dad, Spc. Scott Bell, during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College. Bell, of Brandon, S.D., is one of the 180 Soldiers of Bravo Battery who arrived home earlier that day after spending 10 months overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This was Bell's second tour to Iraq as he served with the 153rd Engineer Battalion during its deployment in February 2004 to February 2005. Battery B is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and conducted various security missions for the past 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081023-A-8551W-0551.JPG>



081023-A-8551W-0547: SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Krystal and Katie Badillo (right) stay close to there dad, Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Badillo, during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College. Badillo, of Sioux Falls, is one of the 180 Soldiers of Bravo Battery who arrived home earlier that day after spending 10 months overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Battery B is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and conducted various security missions for the past 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

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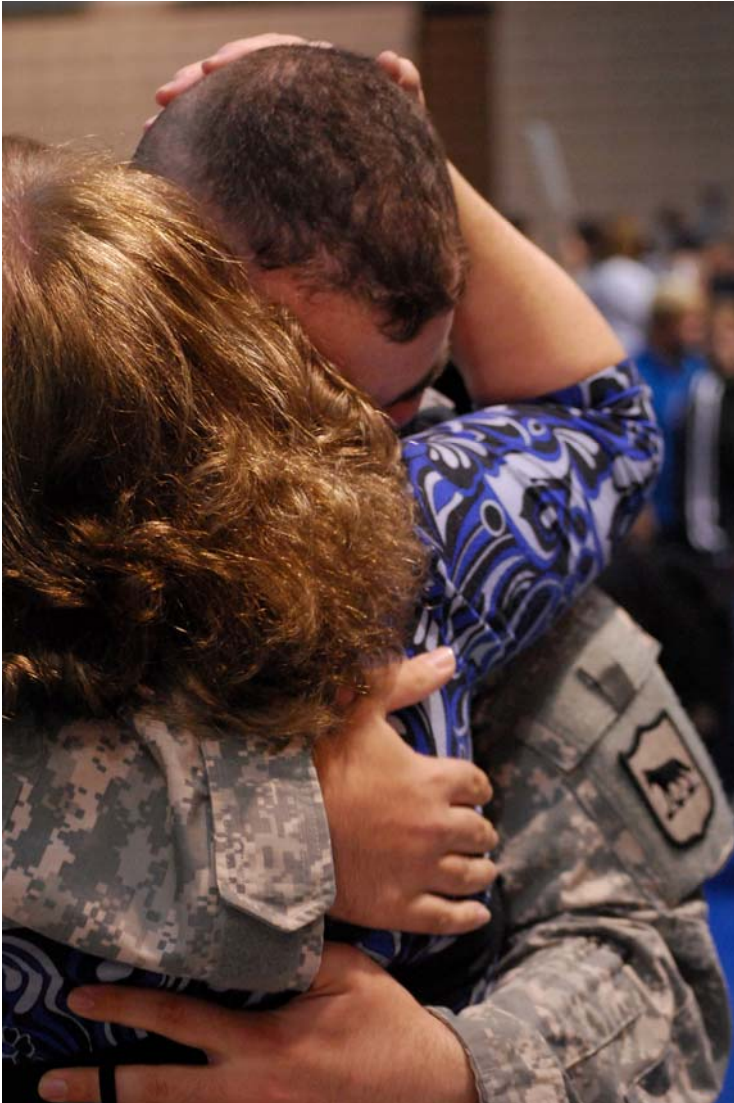
081023-A-8551W-0529: SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Sergeant Michael Gohring gazes at Gracyn Gohring, his-six-month old daughter being held by the new father's wife Melanie, during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College. Gohring, of Clear Lake, S.D, is one of the 180 Soldiers of Bravo Battery who arrived home earlier that day after spending 10 months overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Battery B is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and conducted various security missions for the past 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081023-A-8551W-0529.JPG>



081023-A-8551W-0521: SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Staff Sgt. Kurt Bies holds tight to daughter Emily as his wife, Tami, son, Zach (in hat), and daughter Nichole, surround him during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College. Bies, of Salem, S.D., is one of the 180 Soldiers of Bravo Battery who arrived home earlier that day after spending 10 months overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Battery B is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and conducted various security missions for the past 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081023-A-8551W-0521.JPG>



081023-A-8551W-0511: SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Specialist Mark Schild is embraced by his mother, Barb, during a welcome home ceremony for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Elmen Center at Augustana College. Schild, of Yankton, S.D., is one of the 180 Soldiers of Bravo Battery who arrived home earlier that day after spending 10 months overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Battery B is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit was stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and conducted various security missions for the past 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081023-A-8551W-0511.JPG>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.

NOTE 1: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 30 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,300 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.